Serjeant Glanvill

Mr. SPEAKER

HIS SPEECH TO HIS *MAJESTIE.*

IN THE HIGH COVRT OF PARLIAMENT THE the fifth of *Novemb.* 1640.

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MASTER SPEAKERS SPEECH IN THE HIGH COVRT OF PARLIAMENT, TO THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT Majestie, the fifth of *November*. M DC XL.

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Most gracious and dread Soveraigne.

IN all submissive humblenesse, the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the house of Commons are here assembled, who taking along with them your gracious inclination, have according to their ancient liberties designed me their Speaker.

Whereas I cannot but lament to thinke how great a mist may overcast the hopes of this Session, yet a note of favour to me, who cannot but judge my selfe unfit for so great imployments, which so appeares to the whole world.

Many there be of deepe Iudgement, and sad experience, that might have added lustre to this action, and

expedition to the worke, if they had pleaſed to have left me in that condition they found me.

Non mihi tacuiſſe nocet, Nocet eſſe Locutum.

And then might your Sacred and pious intentions have had their full advancement.

But is it yet too late? may I appeale to *Caeſar?*

Yes, I may, and in the loweſt poſture of humility I humbly beſeech your Sacred Majeſty to interpoſe your Royall authority to command a review of the Houſe, for there were never more then now fitted for ſuch Imployments.

My Lord Keeper approves of him by his Majeſties direction.

Then he goes on.

It pleaſeth not your Sacred Majeſty to vouchſafe a change.

Actions of Kings are not to be by me reaſoned.

Therefore being imboldened by this Gracious approbation, give me leave a little, Dread Soveraigne, to expreſſe my owne thoughts unto our gracious Lord the King.

I ſee before my eyes with admiration the Majeſtie of great Brittaine, the Glory of times, the Hiſtory of honour *CHARLES* the Firſt, in his forefront placed by diſcent of authority (King) ſetled by a long ſucceſſion, and continued to us by a pious and peaceſull government.

On

On the one ſide the Monument of Glory, the Progenie of valiant and puiſſant Princes, the Queenes moſt Excellent Majeſtie.

On the other ſide, the hopes of poſteritie, and joy of this Nation, thoſe Olive branches ſet round your Tables, Emblems of peace to poſteritie.

Here ſhine thoſe Lights and Lamps placed in a Mount, which attend your ſacred Majeſtie as ſupreme head, and borrow from you the Splendor of their government.

There the true ſtate of Nobility, figures of Proweſſe and Magnanimity, fitted by their long contracted honour in their bloud, for their Councell of Princes.

In the midſt of thoſe the Reverend Iudges, whither both parties (as to the Oracles of Iudgement and Iuſtice) may reſort, Ciſternes that hold faire waters, wherein each deviation, each wrinckle is diſcernable, and from thence (as from the Center) each crooked line ought to be levelled; The footſtoole of your Throne is fixed there, which renders you glorious to all poſteritie.

Here we the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of the Commons houſe, at your royall feet, contracted from all parts of your Kingdome, Enſignes of obedience and humility, all theſe united by the law equally diſtributed, which cements this great body to the obedience of your Sacred Majeſtie;

And compells aſwell the hearts as the hands to contribute for the preſervation of your Majeſtie, and the Common intereſt.

Diſſipates the Invaders of the Church and common wealth, and diſcovers the Impoſtures, but (give mee

 leave,

leave dread Soveraigne) knits the Crowne to the Sacred Temples, and frees Majeſtie from the Interpretation of miſ-doing.

Amongſt theſe this great Councell is moſt Soveraigne againſt the diſtempers of this Nation.

Were they infeſted at Sea, troubled at home, or invaded from abroad, here was the Sanctuary of refuge, hither was the reſort, and no other way found for a foundation of peace.

It is reported of *Conſtantine* the great, that he accompted his Subjects purſe his Exchequer, and ſo it is.

Subtile inventions may picke it out, but nothing can open it but a Parliament; which lets in the eye of Soveraigntie upon the publique maladies of the State, and vigilancie for the preſervation of our ancient liberties; for this we need not ſearch into antiquitie, looke but a little back, there we ſhall ſee our juſt liberties graciouſly confirmed by your moſt ſacred Majeſtie.

And is our happineſſe ſhut up in the remembrance of times paſt only? No.

Thoſe Orations, expreſſions lately falne from your ſacred lips, as honey from the combe, make glad the hearts of your people.

So that now we doe more then promiſe to our ſelves a large and free conſideration of the wayes to compoſe the diſtempers of theſe Kingdomes, and then preſent them to your Royall hand for perfection.

And ſuch ſhall be our deportment, that as we ſhall labour the continuance of our liberties, ſo ſhall we carrie a high regard to preſerve that Soveraigne power wherewith your Majeſtie is inveſted for the preſervation of your Kingdome, and to render your ſacred Ma-

jeſtie terrible to the Nations, and glorious at home.

Are theſe the fruits we have enjoyed by Parliaments? we cannot then but wonder at that horrid invention in this place projected, *Monſtrum horrendum, informe ingens*, but, the Lord be thanked, *Cui lumen ademptum eſt.* Can this receive a *Palliation?* Men, Fathers, and Brethren, and all at one blaſt; no reverence to ſacred Bones of Princes? were we not all in a lumpe by them intended to bee offered up to *Moloch.*

Let us never forget this dayes ſolemnization (But whither?) It is too much boldneſſe to preſume longer on your Majeſties grace and goodneſſe; and therefore for the better expedition of this ſervice; Wee humbly deſire;

1. That our ſelves and ſeruants may obtaine freedom from arreſts of their perſons and goods.

2. That we may have free liberty of ſpeech without confinement, with a full and free debate.

3. That your Majeſtie will vouchſafe our repaire to your ſacred perſon upon matters of importance, according to the ancient priviledges of the houſe.

That with ſuch alacrity wee may now proceede to manifeſt to the world, that our retirements were to reinforce a greater unity and duty, & to endeavour a ſweet violence which may compell (pardon dread Soveraigne the word Compell) your Majeſtie to the love of Parliaments.

And thus God will have the honour; your ſacred Majeſtie ſplendor, the Kingdome ſafety, and all our votes ſhall paſſe, That your ſacred Majeſty may long, long, long, reigne over us; And let all the people ſay, *Amen.*

FINIS.